ast three years is given in the ttached statement.

See Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 14].

(c) Yes, Sir. The import of fertilizers has substantially declined from bout 34 lakh tonnes of nutrients in 985-86 to about 10 lakh tonnes in 987-88.

(d) Does not arise.

Directions to States to keep close watch on the price situation

438. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed all States and Union Territories to keep a close watch on the price situation;

(b) whether the prices of all commodities like pulses, vegetables and other common household items are sharply increasing despite directions by Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps Government propose to take to bring prices of essential commodities in control?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been increase in the prices of pulses (except Arhar), wheat, jowar, tea and milk during the current financial year 1988-89 till 4-2-1989. In the case of vegetables, the price of potatoes was marginaliy higher but that of onions was substantially lower. The WPI of edible oils except vanaspati was lower during the current financial year, while WPI of sugar and gur were higher.

(c) The reasons for rise in prices in the case of pulses is attributed to stagnant production in the last few years and also due to the increase in the import duty on pulses in October, 1988. The prices of vegetables and edible oils are lower because of increased production of oilseeds, vegetables in general and seasonality factors. The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of essential commodities which are in short supply and to import items to augment the domestic availability. The Government is continuously keeping a close watch on the behaviour of prices and availability of essential commodities and appropriate remedial measures are taken to contain any undue rise in prices. Public Distribution System has been strengthened and more fair price shops have been opened in far-flung and remote areas. Mobile Vans have been pressed into service for distribution of esential items in remote and unserved areas. State Governments have been advised to set up control rooms to keep a continuous watch on the prices and availability of essential commodities. Vigilance Committees have been set up at district levels to ensure smooth functioning of Public Distribution System. The State Governments have also been urged to take stringent actions against hoarders, black-marketeers and anti-social elements under Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations.

ILO's Offer for more employment in Rural Areas

439 SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has offered technical expertise to India for exploring the possibility of generating more employment in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have since accepted the offer of the ILO; and

(c) if so, details in this regard and to what extent the growth of employment in the rural areas of the country will be boosted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVLYA): (a) Shri T. Nakamura, ADG, ILO, during his recent visit to India mentioned in a general way that ILO could provide expertise to India to explore the possibility of generating more employment in rural areas. However, no specific project has been posed by ILO for acceptance by India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Items for export by Pepsico Produced by others

440. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the select list of items to be produced by others, which the Pepsi joint venture propose to export, has been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the names of those items; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Government do not have information on the list of items to be exported by M/s. Punjab Agro-Pepsi-Tata venture besides the items to be exported by them from their own production.

Shortage of strategic non-Ferrous Metals in the country

441. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether due to acute shortage of strategic non-ferrous metals like copper, aluminium and zinc in the country, a large number of major core industries have been crippled;

(b) if so, the reasons for the acute shortage of non-ferrous metals in the country; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to provide adequate quantum of non-ferrous metals to the industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As the indigenous production of copper and zinc is not adequate to meet the total requirement in the country, the gap is met by imports canalized through Minerals and Matals Trading Corporation (MMTC), besides imports under the REP Licence.

As regards aluminium, the indigenous production in the current financial year is expected to meet the level of demand. However, import of aluminium has been placed on Open General Licence (OGL).

Availability of rice and wheat to Fair Price Shops

442. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fair Price Shops in the capital are not getting their full quota of rice and wheat thus depriving the consumers to visit a number of times in a month;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to make availability of rice